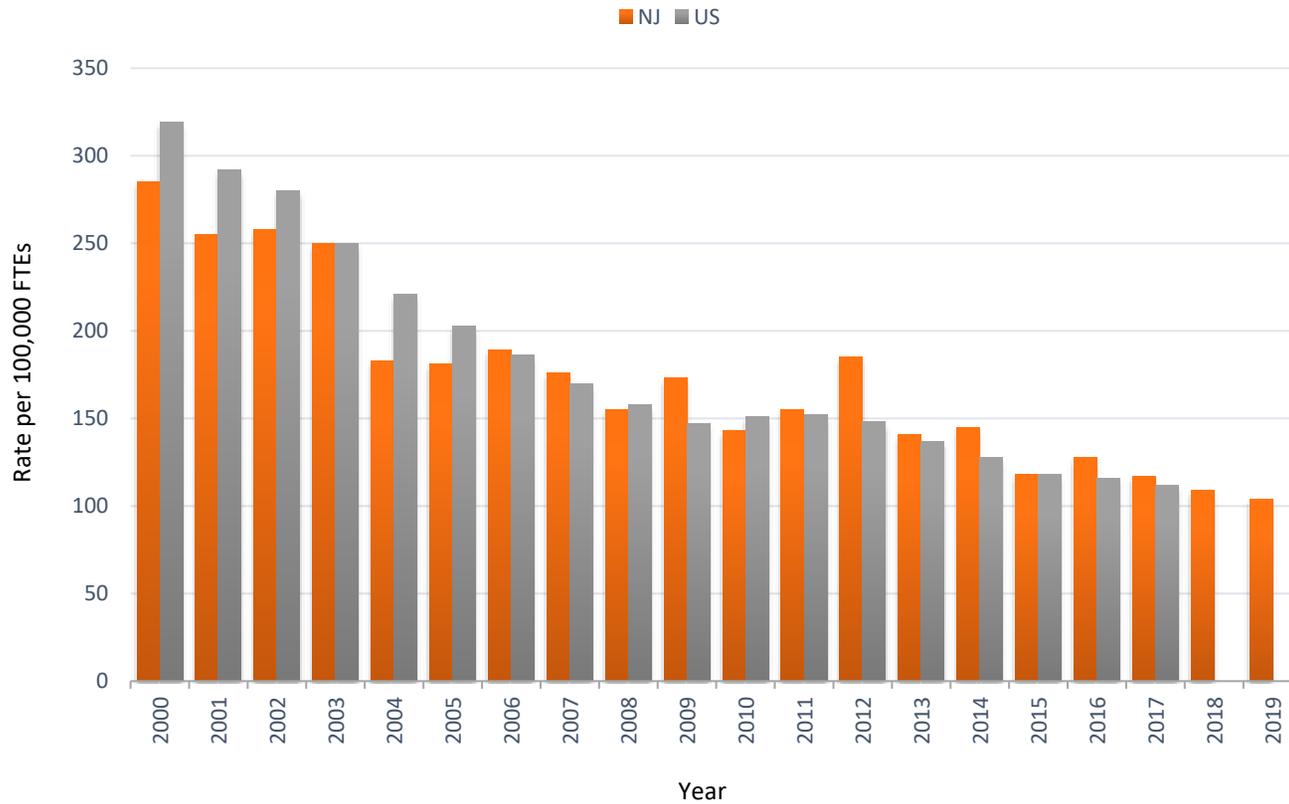


## OHI#7: Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) with Days Away from Work Reported by Employers

Estimated Annual Incidence Rate\* of MSDs of the Back Involving Days Away from Work, New Jersey and United States, 2000-2019



\*Rate per 100,000 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

**Estimated Annual Number and Incidence Rate\* of MSDs of the Back Involving Days Away from Work, New Jersey and United States, 2000-2019**

Year	Number		Rate	
	NJ	US	NJ	US
2000	7,777	293,033	285	319
2001	6,926	265,018	255	292
2002	6,970	246,103	258	280
2003	6,800	212,380	250	250
2004	4,970	196,640	183	221
2005	4,970	184,440	181	203
2006	5,150	172,400	189	186
2007	4,780	160,880	176	170
2008	4,450	150,310	155	158
2009	4,590	133,470	173	147
2010	3,700	130,730	143	151
2011	3,970	133,730	155	152
2012	4,830	133,640	185	148
2013	3,760	126,070	141	137
2014	3,890	119,780	145	128
2015	3,200	113,450	118	118
2016	3,520	113,320	128	116
2017	3,240	110,310	117	112
2018	3,070	N/A	109	N/A
2019	2,840	N/A	104	N/A

\*Rate per 100,000 FTEs

N/A: Not available

Data Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII); 2017 and prior [[https://www.bls.gov/iif/msd\\_state.htm](https://www.bls.gov/iif/msd_state.htm)]; 2018 and forward [<https://data.bls.gov/gqt/InitialPage>].

## Technical Notes:

- MSDs are injuries or disorders of the muscles, nerves, tendon, joints, cartilage, and spinal discs. MSDs do not include disorders caused by crashes or similar incidents.
- Employers are required to follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations for recording work-related cases of injuries and illnesses.
  - Includes events that result in death, loss of consciousness, days away from work, restricted work, or medical treatment beyond first aid.
  - Detailed case characteristics (e.g., nature, body part, event) are reported when the injury or illness results in at least one day away from work.
  - Approximately 14% of the workforce are not included (military, self-employed individuals, private household workers, workers on farms with 10 or fewer employees, and Federal agencies) as these worker groups fall outside the scope of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.
- Rates published by BLS are reported as the number of injury and illness cases per 100 full-time equivalents (FTEs). Rates presented in Figure 1 are reported as cases per 100,000 FTEs and were derived by multiplying BLS published rates by 1,000.
- In 2011, the BLS began using a revised version of the Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Classification System (OIICS) manual to code case characteristics associated with work-related injuries, illnesses and fatalities (<https://www.bls.gov/iif/oshoiics.htm>).
  - These revisions affected the numbering and hierarchical ordering of codes and resulted in another modification to the MSD definition. Because of this change in the definition, BLS suggests that estimates for MSD case counts and rates from 2011 forward should not be compared with counts and rates prior to 2011.
  - Due to the extensive revisions in the new version of OIICS, BLS cautions users against directly comparing Event, Source, Secondary Source, Part, and Nature case characteristic codes from 1992–2010 to data from 2011 onward.
- Rates of MSDs involving days away from work are reported per 100,000 full-time equivalents (FTEs) in Table 7b and Figure 7. Rates reported by BLS are per 10,000 FTEs.

## Limitations:

- The SOII estimates are subject to a number of limitations:
  - Some states do not participate in this survey, and in some participating states, sample sizes are insufficient to generate state-specific estimates.
  - Employers do not always record all relevant events. Employers are only required to report the detailed case characteristics (e.g., nature of the disabling condition, body part affected, and event and source producing the condition) when the injury or illness results in at least one day away from work beyond the day of injury or onset of illness.
  - Employers are often unaware of work-related conditions. This may include cases in which medical care from personal health care providers was sought, conditions with long latencies, and conditions that are diagnosed after an employee leaves an employer.
  - Employers may place affected workers on restricted work activity, thereby avoiding the requirement to report lost workday cases.
  - SOII data are based on year of incident and are collected shortly after the end of the calendar year. Thus, lost work-time cases that carry over to a new calendar year may not be captured.
- The private sector industries for which data are available vary among states, primarily due to differences in industry concentration and sample size from one state to the next. As a result, BLS does not recommend to compare numbers or rates between state or national data.